



1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Quality education is crucial to the future of our
3 State; and

4 WHEREAS, Access to quality education is the entryway to
5 opportunity; and

6 WHEREAS, Quality education provided in a universal setting
7 enriches the learning experience for all children; and

8 WHEREAS, Quality education for every citizen regardless of
9 race, religion, ethnic background, sex, disability/handicap,
10 or economic circumstance is an indispensable goal in our
11 society; and

12 WHEREAS, On May 17, 1954, in a historic and unanimous
13 decision, the United States Supreme Court, in Brown v. Board of
14 Education, 347 U.S. 483 (1954), ruled that public education is
15 subject to the equal protection provisions of the United States
16 Constitution; and

17 WHEREAS, The Court based its decision on the premise that
18 to separate children according to their race was unfair,
19 diminishing their hopes and their futures; and

20 WHEREAS, That decision has had a profound, significant, and
21 beneficial impact on all aspects of life in the United States;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, The significant contributions of citizens of this
24 State were essential to the ultimate success of that 58-year
25 battle for justice; and

26 WHEREAS, Those contributions made through lawful and
27 peaceful means stand as worthy models of the benefit of public

1 education and good citizenship; and

2 WHEREAS, The benefits to Illinois are everywhere, to be
3 seen in the contributions by Illinois citizens, not only in
4 education, but in government, the arts, business, and other
5 civic undertakings; and

6 WHEREAS, Many of the promises and goals of that decision
7 still remain unmet; and

8 WHEREAS, The future of public education is dependent on the
9 continued resolve of all to provide a quality education without
10 regard to race, color, creed, sex, national origin, religion,
11 disability/handicap, or social economic status; and

12 WHEREAS, The 50th Anniversary of the Brown v. Board of
13 Education decision presents an opportunity for the 120,000
14 members of the Illinois Education Association to celebrate and
15 commemorate our State's success in providing quality public
16 education, recognize the fruits of that success, and reinforce
17 and strengthen its commitment to achieving the goal and promise
18 of quality education; and

19 WHEREAS, May 17, 2004 is the 50th anniversary of this
20 historic event; therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
22 NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
23 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that May 17, 2004 be designated a
24 special day of remembrance, reflection, and gratitude for the
25 efforts of so many American men and women that helped bring
26 about the landmark Brown v. Board of Education decision that
27 has enriched the lives of every American and helped bring our
28 country closer to the goal of achieving equality and justice
29 for all.